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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Committee On Planning And Development
Public Hearing
February 18, 2009

Testimony On
H.B. 5554, An Act Authorizing Monthly Payment
Plans For Property Tax

Senators Coleman, Harris and Fasano; Representatives Sharkey, Drew and Aman; and members of the Planning And Development Committee:

I am sorry I cannot personally come before you today to request your support of H.B. 5554, *An Act Authorizing Monthly Payment Plans For Property Tax*. I have proposed this bill, which would amend Chapter 203 of the Connecticut General Statutes to authorize municipalities to establish monthly tax payment plans for the payment of property taxes.

Since municipal budgets are set based on what is needed to run a town for one fiscal year, why is it necessary for citizens to pay up front for services that are not rendered immediately after property taxes are paid?

This simple change to existing statute would be timely and helpful in the challenging economic climate we are currently facing. By allowing property owners to pay their taxes in monthly increments, they could include their property tax payments in their monthly budgets avoiding the difficulty of paying two large payments twice a year. This would provide a more fair and equitable system of payment, particularly for families who have seen their annual incomes decrease through job loss or other economic misfortune.

I thank you for your thoughtful consideration and favorable passage of this proposal and would be happy to address any questions or concerns you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Themis".

Themis Klarides
Deputy Republican Leader